Amendment to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for managing inventory of a stock item over a number of specified~~convenient~~ time periods, comprising:

receiving an updated demand forecast and updating projected forecast data, the projected forecast data including a quantity of said stock item expected to be consumed during at least one of said number of specified time periods;

determining for a given time period:

projected inventory level using said projected forecast data, supplier commitment data, and prior periods' projected inventory levels; and

projected days of supply of inventory using said projected inventory level for a current time period and projected forecast data for subsequent periods; and

when[if] said projected days of supply is out of a predetermined range for a given time period, taking corrective action.

2. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said given time period is established by at least one of:

a supplier; and

a manufacturer.

3. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said determining for a given time period said projected inventory level includes providing a search criteria including a part number identifying said stock item.

4. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 3, wherein said search criteria includes a part name identifying said stock item.

5. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 3, wherein said search criteria includes a part description identifying said stock item.

6. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said number of specified~~convenient~~ time periods includes a selected horizon.

7. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said number of specified~~convenient~~ time periods is measured in increments of time, said increments including one of:

days;

weeks; and

months.

8. (Cancelled) ~~The method of claim 1, wherein said projected forecast data includes a quantity of said stock item expected to be consumed during at least one of said number of convenient time periods.~~

9. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said supplier commitment data includes a quantity of said stock item a supplier commits to provide for a manufacturer.

10. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said determining for a given time period said projected inventory level includes performing a calculation comprising:

$PI(n) = PI(n-1) - F(n-1) + C(n-1)$;

wherein further:

PI represents a projected inventory value;

n represents a variable, said variable representing a time period;

F represents a projected forecast value; and

C represents a supplier commitment value.

11. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined range for said projected days of supply is established by at least one of:

a manufacturer; and

a supplier.

12. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined range for said projected days of supply is a single number.

13. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said projected days of supply is measured in time increments including one of:

days;

weeks; and

months.

14. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said corrective action includes modifying said supplier commitment data.

15. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 14, wherein said modifying said supplier commitment data includes delaying a shipment.

16. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 14, wherein said modifying said supplier commitment data includes increasing said supplier commitment data.

17. (Currently amended) A storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for managing inventory of a stock item over a number of specified~~convenient~~ time periods, the storage medium including instructions for causing a computer to implement a method, comprising:

receiving an updated demand forecast and updating projected forecast data, the projected forecast data including a quantity of said stock item expected to be consumed during at least one of said number of specified time periods;

determining for a given time period:

projected inventory level using said projected forecast data, supplier commitment data, and prior periods' projected inventory levels; and

projected days of supply of inventory using said projected inventory level for a current time period and projected forecast data for subsequent periods; and

[if]when said projected days of supply is out of a predetermined range for a given time period, taking corrective action.

18. (Original) The storage medium of claim 17, wherein said given time period is established by at least one of:

a supplier; and

a manufacturer.

19. (Original) The storage medium of claim 17, wherein said determining for a given time period said projected inventory level includes providing a search criteria including a part number identifying said stock item.

20. (Original) The storage medium of claim 19, wherein said search criteria includes a part name identifying said stock item.

21. (Original) The storage medium of claim 19, wherein said search criteria includes a part description identifying said stock item.

22. (Currently amended) The storage medium of claim 17, wherein said number of specified~~convenient~~ time periods includes a selected horizon.

23. (Currently amended) The storage medium of claim 17, wherein said number of specified~~convenient~~ time periods is measured in increments of time, said increments including one of:

days;

weeks; and

months.

24. (Cancelled) ~~The storage medium of claim 17, wherein said projected forecast data includes a quantity of said stock item expected to be consumed during at least one of said number of convenient time periods.~~

25. (Original) The storage medium of claim 17, wherein said supplier commitment data includes a quantity of said stock item a supplier commits to provide for a manufacturer.

26. (Original) The storage medium of claim 17, wherein said determining for a given time period said projected inventory level includes performing a calculation comprising:

$PI(n) = PI(n-1) - F(n-1) + C(n-1)$;

wherein further:

PI represents a projected inventory value;

n represents a variable, said variable representing a time period;

F represents a projected forecast value; and

C represents a supplier commitment value.

27. (Original) The storage medium of claim 17, wherein said predetermined range for said projected days of supply is established by at least one of:

a manufacturer; and

a supplier.

28. (Original) The storage medium of claim 17, wherein said predetermined range for said projected days of supply is a single number.

29. (Original) The storage medium of claim 17, wherein said days of supply is measured in time increments including one of:

days;

weeks; and

months.

30. (Original) The storage medium of claim 17, wherein said corrective action includes modifying said supplier commitment data.

31. (Original) The storage medium of claim 30, wherein said modifying said supplier commitment data includes delaying a shipment.

32. (Original) The storage medium of claim 30, wherein said modifying said supplier commitment data includes increasing said supplier commitment data.

33. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the projected days of supply is determined for each time period by performing a calculation, comprising:

$PDOS(n) = DP * (i + CI/F(n+1))$;

wherein further:

PDOS represents a projected days of supply value;

n represents a variable for the given period;

DP represents a number of days supply in the given period;

i represents an index with a value from 1 through n;

CI represents a coverage inventory, the coverage inventory is initialized with the projected inventory level at the beginning of the given period; and

F represents a forecast value.

34. (New) The storage medium of claim 17, wherein the projected days of supply is determined for each time period by performing a calculation, comprising:

PDOS(n) = DP * (i + CI/F(n+1));

wherein further:

PDOS represents a projected days of supply value;

n represents a variable for the given period;

DP represents a number of days supply in the given period;

i represents an index with a value from 1 through n;

CI represents a coverage inventory, the coverage inventory is initialized with the projected inventory level at the beginning of the given period; and

F represents a forecast value.